

My home at 184 Shore Drive is on the lakefront of West Lake in Guilford. My husband I bought the house just over a year ago, though his family has owned property on the lake since the 1950's. With our family history there, we were very excited to finally own a home on this beautiful lake that had so many wonderful memories for my husband.

My husband and I, along with my teenage daughters, my friends, cousins, and their young children all spent many days during this past summer swimming in the lake. It was therefore horrifying to find out that chemicals had been put in the lake without our knowledge, and, once we were able to review the days the chemicals had been applied, we realized that we very likely had been in the lake those days. These are chemicals that the WHO has identified as possible carcinogens and which the state of Connecticut has banned from use on any property where children congregate. Children swim in our lake.

We just happened to hear about the chemical application (and contract that AllHabitat secured) from a casual conversation with a neighbor. And we heard about it AFTER the chemicals had been applied so we were unable to make decisions about whether to swim or not (if we'd known, we would not have gone in the lake).

A small ad in a newspaper that no one reads is nowhere near sufficient notification. A sign at the site of application is also not sufficient. A lake has currents - what goes into the water at one point will drift to all areas of the lake. Every single neighbor in the neighborhood, particularly those on the lake itself, and the associations on the lake, should receive written notification of dates when chemicals will be applied ahead of time. There are also facebook pages and other media that can be used to alert homeowners prior to application.

Furthermore, we have private homeowners who are putting chemicals into our lake. As mentioned, with a lake's currents, what goes into one part of a lake goes to all parts of a lake. Private homeowners who want to use chemicals should also be held legally responsible for informing their neighbors of applications. My real wish is to see chemical use outlawed, particularly by private citizens who have no expertise in application, but if we cannot make that happen, at the very least, they should be held legally responsible for notifying their neighbors before application.

The state of Connecticut should take action and require both herbicide companies AND individual homeowners to notify all lakefront property owner and associations of planned herbicide application before the application happens.

Thank you for listening,  
Megan Galvin  
184 Shore Drive  
Guilford, CT 06437